

## HISTORY OF THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE IN TEN PAPERS.—PAPER III.

## MISSISSIPPI RIVER MADE OUR WESTERN BOUNDARY.

## THE GREAT TREATIES OF 1782-3—WHAT LED UP TO THEM.

**T**HE definitive treaty of peace with Great Britain, signed at Paris, September 3, 1783, brought a happy and glorious ending to the seven years' war for American independence. The second article of that memorable treaty made the middle of the northern lakes and the central channel of the Mississippi river our new general line of boundary, north and west. Article VIII read: "The navigation of the river Mississippi, from its source to the ocean, shall forever remain free and open to the subjects of Great Britain and the citizens of the United States."

In confirming by a solemn convention the somewhat shadowy colonial claims to the vast Indian territory lying between the Alleghenies and the Mississippi, the area of the thirteen original colonies was at once doubled. What are now the prosperous states of Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota in part, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama, are the fruitful political offspring of this most beneficent treaty. In its large immediate results—peace and the creation of a nation—and in its never-ending future influence, this is one of the two greatest American treaties. Without it the centennial of the treaty of twenty years later, that of the Louisiana purchase of 1803, would not so soon, if at all, be celebrated.

What were the causes and events, what and by whom the exertions and utterances that led up to this blessed compact of peace and freedom? Who were the benefactors of America that brought about the partition of the British empire and the building of an American empire that has become great?

Primarily we owe the peace of freedom to the toils and military services of Washington, Greene, Wayne, Knox, Schuyler and deserving others. Before Yorktown, peace with independence was never possible. To gather the fruits and garner the harvest from the benign victory, the Franklins were needed in the field of foreign diplomacy. Long before the sun of tranquility had dawned, Benjamin Franklin's benignant face and penetrating, spectacled eyes, illuminated the scene. Arriving in Paris in December, 1776, Franklin with his colleagues, Silas Deane and Arthur Lee, was able to secure secret aid from France and from individual sympathizers in our struggle for liberty. As early as February 8, 1776, he negotiated with our first and most generous foreign friend, Vergennes, two very important treaties: one of amity and commerce, the other of alliance. Article II of the latter reads: "The essential and direct end of the present defensive alliance is to maintain effectually the liberty, sovereignty and independence absolute and unlimited, of the United States, as well in matters of government as of commerce."

This direct and comprehensive affirmation is repeated in article seven and strengthened by the further guarantee that "their possessions and the additions or conquests that their contended may obtain during the war, from any of the dominions, or heretofore possessed by Great Britain in North America" . . . "will be held and enjoyed by the said States, at the moment of the cessation of their present war with England."

What amazing foresight! as it both negotiators had the peace treaty of five years later in mind.

## FRANKLIN, JAY AND ADAMS.

The dark valley of tribulation, death and Valley Forge being passed, Livingston and the other wise men of the west asked Dr. Franklin to head the

wounds of war and bring about a reconciliation between the victors and the vanquished. Franklin saw that the supreme hour and opportunity of his life had come. Crowned with the wisdom of seventy-three years, he gathered in and utilized all the agencies and resources of his intellect, influence, popularity and power, and induced his correspondence with every public character, philosopher and man of Science, the audacious cultivation of Science, the audacious cultivation of England, the embracing and kissing of Voltaire before the French Academy of Science, the audacious cultivation

of peace. Franklin presented Oswald to Vergennes and shrewdly remained during the entire conference. The same presentation took place when President Fox saw over the walls of Grenoble to negotiate the treaty between France and England, Franklin being present at the first and at repeated conferences. Finding Grenville less pliable than Oswald, the American, succeeded in getting Oswald appointed the chief negotiator of the British government.

With the English agents and their assistants largely of his own selection and with Vergennes as confidential relations with him as the chief minister of another government could hardly be, our first and greatest diplomatist was prepared to proceed to serious conclusions. Again writing Jay to render himself in Paris as soon as possible, he presented his colleague the day after his arrival to Vergennes, who received him very cordially. This pure patriot and methodical and upright man, curbed somewhat the impetuous Franklin, who like other great men had a dislike for delays and a distaste for details. Jay was cautious, high-toned, firm and precise. Keeping in view the time employed and labor bestowed, Franklin and Jay were the two chief American negotiators. Mr. Adams did not visit his colleague Franklin, who was ill, until three days after his arrival. He did not pay his respects to the French minister of foreign affairs, who in a large sense held the destinies of America in his hands, until Nov. 10, just fifteen days after he reached Paris. The magnanimous Vergennes, instead of regarding the slight, invited Adams to dine on the day that he called, gave him the seat of honor, and in other ways treated him with marked courtesy. Our envoy's commission continued to receive the hospitalities of the generous minister, which he rewarded by giving currency to the suspicion that Vergennes had betrayed a cause to which he had given and was giving ultimate success in both war and peace. As an honorable peace is usually brought about by nations at war, through honorable men, it seems fitting to discuss the high representatives of France, England and America who directed and wisely ended this great negotiation. Of these epoch-making men our own hero Ben Franklin should undoubtedly be ranked first. He had been long in the field and was first on the ground. He had been half a lifetime the agent abroad of one, of all, the American colonies, Franklin knew both Europe and America. He had courageously faced the enemies of his country, headed by Wedderburn and others, before the bar of the house of commons; and he had grappled its friends to his heart with arms of tenderness and strength. France received him as the greatest living scientist, philosopher and sage. He had reached the full maturity of worldly wisdom. He had the tact of a Metternich and the adroitness of a Talleyrand. Is it strange then that as a cat plays with a captured mouse, he should toss about and dominate at will Oswald, Hartley, Grenville, Fitzherbert, Stratford and all the underlings of the British foreign office? In short, Franklin got into the two treaties the Mississippi and the Fishery, all he was instructed to get in and with Oswald's consent, would have added Canada, if Jay and Adams had supported him in a claim so savoring of audacity.

COUNT DE VERGENNES.

As the personal equation can never be eliminated from affairs of govern-

ment, the wise, patient, well-poised Vergennes is the next most potent personality to consider. In 1782-3, Vergennes was France and France was Vergennes. As strong men admire strength in others, this statesman's love of Franklin and his cause and desire to cripple England at the opportune time, led him to form the two generous treaties of Amity and Alliance in 1783; to advance to the straggling colonies nearly forty millions of francs; to send over to our old De Grasse, Rochambeau and about fifteen thousand sailors and soldiers; to recognize our sovereignty and independence earliest, and when triumph came after the combined French and American assaults on Yorktown, to take the first firm steps towards a permanent peace. Vergennes agreed to make and did make a peace treaty of even date with Great Britain, keeping pace with our own negotiations, even after he was coolly informed that a secret treaty was about to be sent to America, the terms of which were to be withheld from him. On this disregard of instructions from the American government and impeachment of his own good faith, Vergennes assumed the role of dignified utterance in a note:

ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON.

Franklin, Vergennes, Shelburne and Livingston were the four government agents, clothed with power, that brought about the first and final treatise of 1782-1783. Livingston was the equal of John Adams as an able and convincing logician without the angular and obstinate bluntness of Adams. He was the superior of Jay as a man of affairs and in a rugged strength of understanding. Robert R. Livingston, the first in achievement of the six distinguished members of this remarkable family, was elected to the Continental Congress in April, 1775. Serving on many important committees, he served from June 11, 1775, to July 4, on the committee of five whose deliberations and conclusions gave the reasons, rhetorically set forth by Mr. Jefferson, in the Declaration of Independence. On August 10, 1783, he was elected by Congress secretary for foreign affairs and in the discharge of delicate diplomatic duties, exhibited talents and aptitude of the highest order. In Secretary Livingston's instructions to Franklin, dated January 7, 1782, are embodied in the most argumentative and exact form the American claim for the Mississippi as our boundary line and for other much-desired concessions, that can anywhere be found. He says, I believe, "that our extension to the Mississippi is founded in justice, and that our claims are at least such as the events of the war give us the right to insist upon." He followed with the keenest watchfulness each step in the negotiations for an advantageous peace. When peace with honor was unquestionably assured, this patriot resigned his high post to become chancellor of the state of New York.

LORD SHERBURNE.

This British statesman was the friend of America when America needed friends most. For this, the implacable George III once said that he disliked him as much as he did Alderman Wilkes. In February, 1782, Shelburne went with the opposition to Lord North when they carried a resolution through the house of commons, declaring that those who advise prolonging the war with America were enemies of their country. In March, when the king was compelled to call upon Lord Shelburne to form a cabinet, the latter reluctantly said that Lord Rockingham, the prime minister and Rockingham, he made premier and Rockingham took the modest post of home and colonial secretary.

The leader of the Buckingham Whigs having died on July 1, 1782, just three months after he assumed control of the new ministry, Lord Shelburne became acting minister and soon honorably and amicably concluded the preliminary treaty of peace with America. This he deliberately did at a sacrifice as he feared, and as it proved, of his high office. The earl of Shelburne was then blindly accused of duplicity but respects speak for themselves and amply vindicate him. From first to last he favored such liberal terms for our treaty commissioners that the British parliament would not sanction his liberality and he was exiled from power. Although supported by Edmund Burke, this friend of the great Lord Chatham and patron of William Pitt, was driven from office by the en-

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## DOMESTIC SCIENCE.

### Menu for Sunday, Dec. 8.

#### Breakfast.

Warm Baked Apples with Cream, Biscuits, Crisped Bacon, Creamed Potatoes, German Coddle, Cakes, Maple Syrup, Coffee.

#### Dinner.

Vegetable Soup, Preserved Ginger, Roast Beef, Horseradish, Mashed White Potatoes, Macaroni and Cheese, Lettuce Salad, Celery, Canned Peas, Plain Fruit Cakes, Apple Dumpling, Lemon Scones, Coffee.

#### Supper.

Cold Roast Beef, Scalloped Potatoes, Sally Lunn, Canned Peas, Plain Fruit Cakes.

These can be kept on the ice, and taken from there to the table without having to make change to a fresh dish.

To prevent this, no dishes are properly planned and made with care. These will outlast the older wood and will not be necessary handing the saucer table mats. This comes from 25 cents up.

Every woman has tried cutting pastries for bread or French rolls, will you please one of the most difficult little cakes and vegetable slices. These are of wood and will not be necessary handing the saucer table mats with them.

In getting ready for the Christmas shopping one should make out an accurate list of what is needed and then adhere to it. The Christmas display is always more or less a trap, traps are set, and when once you put on the traps, are apt to get some traps with things that look pretty, but have little or no intrinsic value.

Every housekeeper enjoys convenience for her kitchen, and of these this year the most popular are the small covered serving dishes are to be recommended on the score of economy of time and labor. These come in pretty German ware, blue and white and brown and white, and the pies, puddings, custards, parties and casseroles cooked in them can go directly from the oven onto the table.

There are also small covered jars of the same material for holding cream cheese.

If English plum pudding is to cover the Christmas bill of fare, it is high time that it should be prepared, not put away for later. The secret of its successful making lies in the thorough mixing of the ingredients, leaving, however, a little room for the puddings to swell and rise, not allowing oil, not allowing the water in which the pudding is cooked to stop boiling for even a moment. If the water stops boiling even a few moments, the pudding will be soft and sticky. A large pudding will require two hours boiling, but if the boiling is cooked and bubbles most housekeepers prefer one hour with sugar. An English recipe often has sugar in the same tankard these many years ago. A pound of raisins in halves, stoned and seeds in a wineglass, add a pint of water, boil one hour, dry one pound of the best Zante currants. Open fine a pound of beef suet or three-quarters of a pound of the moistest bacon, taking care to remove all the sinew. Cut into shavings two ounces of citron and one ounce each of candied lemon and orange peels. Grate one nutmeg and one slice of orange and one slice of lemon and weigh out a quarter of a pound of almonds, grate one nutmeg and add one pound each of sugar and the brandermilk and a teaspoonful of salt. Mix thoroughly, add nine eggs well beaten, a wineglass each of brandy and sherry, add a pint of milk, mix thoroughly, pour into a buttered mold, cover with paper, and stand over a slow fire for two hours.

An pictorial post card still continue in use in this country and abroad, a good idea is to utilize them as heating pads for the Christmas creche. Almost every large city has its own special views which are interesting to look at.

A gift of stationery never comes amiss, particularly when imprinted at the head of each sheet is the owner's monogram. This is the best and the easiest, still and intricately complex monogram, but one that can be read by all men. Each letter is formed in a different manner, in a thin metallic line. For instance, if the initials are M. P., the M. would be stamped in silver, the P. in gold and the E. in emerald. There are also steel-blue, red-copper and bronze letters—red, a dozen different shades and colors, in which artistic combinations may be made.

A good idea since to us with plum pudding is composed of one cupful butter, washed free of salt, two cups powdered sugar, the whites of two eggs well beaten and a wine glass of French brandy. The latter may be omitted, however, and a table-spoonful of currants, jelly substituted. Beat the butter to a smooth consistency in a warm bowl, add the sugar little by little, then the eggs, beating all the time until the mass is light and creamy. Lastly, add the brandy or jelly and beat again.

James Q. Howard,  
Special excursion tickets to Washington, D. C., will be sold good going on any train December 12, and good for return at any time up to and including December 31. The rate from Scranton will be \$7.75 for the round trip.

The popular Punch cigar is still the leader of the 10c cigars.